

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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> Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

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July 11, 2008

To:

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair

Supervisor Gloria Molina Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Super<u>vi</u>sor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael, D. Antonovich

From:

William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum provides an update on the State Budget Conference Committee actions and status of County-sponsored legislation.

State Budget Conference Committee Actions

In addition to the State Budget actions previously reported, the Conference Committee took the following actions of interest to the County when it completed its work on Tuesday, July 8, 2008.

Medi-Cal Semi-Annual Reporting. The Conference Committee voted 4 to 2 to implement Medi-Cal semi-annual reporting requirement for children. The Committee also adopted trailer bill language to sunset this requirement on December 31, 2011 and to require a report to the Legislature by December 15, 2010 on the impact of this requirement on children. The Governor's Proposed Budget would have eliminated continuous 12-month eligibility and required quarterly reporting for children receiving Medi-Cal.

Propositions 84 and 1E. The Conference Committee took action on items affecting the Department of Public Work's (DPW) ability to compete for bond funding from Propositions 84 (The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006) and 1E (The Disaster Preparedness

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and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2006) for water management and flood control projects. The Conference Committee rejected the Governor's proposal to provide \$452 million in Propositions 84 (\$350 million) and 1E (\$102 million) funding, and reduced funding by \$155 million for the FloodSAFE program. The Committee did appropriate \$44 million for urban stormwater grants.

Based on your Board's action of July 1, 2008 accepting the recommendations outlined in DPW's report on the Governor's declaration of a Statewide drought, a five-signature letter was sent to the Governor and the legislative leadership requesting the appropriation of funds from Propositions 84 and 1E and that the allocation of these funds be expedited to local agencies due to the current water crisis. **Our Sacramento advocates will continue to advocate for the expedited appropriation of Propositions 84 and 1E funds**. A summary of the actions taken by the Conference Committee related to Propositions 84 and 1E is provided below.

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM). The Conference Committee adopted the Senate version which rejects almost all of the Governor's proposed \$350 million in Proposition 84 bond funds for the IRWM Program. As a result of this action, DPW indicates that neither the Antelope Valley IRWM, the Upper Santa Clara IRWM, nor the Greater Los Angeles IRWM regions will have the opportunity to apply for funding for projects in their respective regions.

Stormwater Flood Management. The Conference Committee adopted the Senate version which rejects the Governor's proposed \$102 million for the Department of Water Resources for Proposition 1E. DPW indicates that funding for the Big Tujunga Dam project was anticipated to come from Proposition 1E and that other flood control projects throughout the County may have to be deferred to provide funding for the Big Tujunga Dam project. The Big Tujunga Dam project is being undertaken to meet the State's dam safety requirements.

<u>FloodSAFE</u>. The Conference Committee adopted the Assembly version which reduces funding by \$155 million for the FloodSAFE Program which provides funding for levee improvements. DPW indicates that because the trailer bill language is not yet available, they cannot asses its impact, however, a reduction of funding would affect potential grant funds that could be used for improving levees of the Flood Control District.

<u>Urban Stormwater Grants</u>. The Conference Committee adopted the Governor's proposed \$44 million in Proposition 84 bond funds for urban stormwater grants. DPW indicates that these grant funds would provide a source of revenue for projects that address stormwater quality.

State Park System Funding. The Conference Committee adopted the Governor's May Revision recommendation to provide \$13.3 million in funding (which includes

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\$1.5 million in revenue from increased State park fees at selected State parks where the effect on attendance would be minimal) for the California Department of Parks and Recreation to allow the State parks targeted for closure in the Governor's Proposed Budget to remain open.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

County-sponsored AB 1903 (Hernandez), as amended on July 2, 2008, which would provide liability protection for DPW in their lined and unlined channels and adjacent spreading grounds during flood control and water conservation operations, passed the Senate Floor on July 10, 2008 by a vote of 35 to 0 and now proceeds to the Assembly for concurrence in Senate amendments. The Senate amendments require special consideration for injured parties under the age of 16. AB 1903 has an urgency clause and would become effective immediately upon signature by the Governor.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK:MAL IGR:mp

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
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Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants